

NEW PAPER SEES LOWER PHONE AND ELECTRIC RATES SOON

Retiring Commissioner Also Predicts Universal Transfers and Improved Car Service. Discusses City's Future.

By BILL PRICE. Major Oliver P. Newman, retiring from the chairmanship of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia, at a loss of \$2,000 in salary each year, to give his services to his country in the artillery branch of the army, sees regulation of public service corporations as yet the most important work to be accomplished by the executive heads of this city.

The views of Major Newman, retiring from high civic duties after more than four years of difficult work, during which he has overcome much prejudice following the initiation of court proceedings to prevent his becoming a Commissioner, leaving his post with the good will of citizens of all classes, will be deeply interesting throughout the District.

Most Important Work. "Unquestionably the most important work of local governmental character to be done in the District is the adequate regulation of rates and services of the public service corporations," he said today.

When we took up the question of regulation under the public utilities law four years ago, we found ourselves bound to make a valuation of the physical properties by the terms of the law creating the Public Utilities Commission. There is no question that Congress intended the commission to find the fair value of the properties and then fix rates on those values that would allow the companies a fair return and no more.

"It would have been easier for the commission to have fixed rates by guess than to have undertaken three years of hard work finding the actual value of the property. It would have satisfied the city, I think, more readily if rates had been arbitrarily set. But there is no question of Congress starting us in the fact, and we had no choice.

Working on Hard Job. "I have no doubt that many people in the city and in Congress have felt the commission wasn't doing anything because it didn't fix rates. It was working on a harder job: Finding out what rates should be. Those valuations, thank goodness, are now completed, and I have every confidence that the commission will be able to make substantial reductions in rates, especially in telephone rates. In this connection it must be remembered that reductions may take one of two forms—actual reductions in charges on the one hand or improved service on the other. In the case of telephone, the service should be improved, for it is very bad here now, and I think further reduction in rates may also be made, notwithstanding there was a reduction on the part of the company—before the valuations were completed—of more than \$100,000 a year.

Further Reduction. "Electric light rates have been reduced somewhat, but I anticipate that when the war is over and consequent war prices of supplies go down, a further substantial reduction can be made. Comparatively, 8 cents—the present rate to most customers—is high, and even based on our valuation of the electric light company's property, it gives the company the benefit of the doubt by a comfortable margin.

RUTGERS GETS MAJ. BIGELOW. Major John Bigelow, U. S. A., retiring from the chairmanship of the District of Columbia, at a loss of \$2,000 in salary each year, to give his services to his country in the artillery branch of the army, sees regulation of public service corporations as yet the most important work to be accomplished by the executive heads of this city.

HICTANER 'The Man Fish' By Jean de la Hire A Strange Story of Mystery and Fanaticism

IN fifteen minutes one of them brought up the body of a marine infantry soldier. The man's chest had been pierced by a bullet. "It is the Sevarec," said the ensign. "Search further."

They looked all night. In the morning the divers were relieved by some comrades. The entire neck of the harbor surrounding Fort St. Jean was searched bit by bit. They dragged the entrance to the ancient port among the quays, as well as the outer shores.

After forty-eight hours they abandoned the search for Sevarec's body. The general opinion was that it had been carried out to sea by current, and that on the following day it would be cast upon the shore by tide, mistral or waves.

However, other less credulous men held the opinion that Sevarec had been carried away, dead or alive, but at any rate, wounded, in the mysterious automobile boat, whose motor had been heard and whose outline had been seen on the night.

The only thing definitely known was that Sevarec had cut the bars of his window with Humbert's contrivance, using jets of high pressure oxygen in a process which had been utilized by engineers for some time. But every one wondered how Sevarec had been able to conceal a hidden apparatus in his room. His noisier confederate could not have brought it to him, for such an affair would have been difficult to conceal.

They forgot that among apparatuses are also inventive geniuses, and they did not know that one of them named Martini had constructed a machine which, if not small enough to be hidden in a modern soldier's clothes, was at least narrow enough to pass between the bars of a window.

Whatever it was, the World Convention held an exciting meeting the next day. The conclusions arrived at satisfied all.

Here they are: "As Sevarec could not be induced to talk, his death is of little significance. It is as necessary now as it was before to find Moissette and restore her to life."

TO MOBILIZE FIRST DRAFT INCREMENT 2D OF SEPTEMBER

Tentative arrangements were made today to mobilize the first increment of District draft men at the L Street armory on September 2 or 3. The increment, consisting of 307 men, will be given preliminary instruction in drill work by members of the Military Service Legion, of which Col. Richard D. Simms is president.

WYOMING MAN NAMED AS INTERIOR SECRETARY Seldon G. Hopkins to Succeed the Late Bo Sweeney.

Seldon G. Hopkins is to take the oath of office as Second Assistant Secretary of the Interior, in succession of the late Bo Sweeney, some time this afternoon, according to an announcement made at the Department of Interior today.

SCHOOL BOARD LOSES SUIT OVER BUDGET

UPPER MARLBORO, Md., Aug. 21.—According to a decision just handed down by Judge Fillmore Bell, in the circuit court of Prince George's county the board of county commissioners is not required to state specifically the items which were cut from the school budget. By this decision the petition of the county board of education asking for a writ of mandamus was dismissed.

AUTO WRECK KILLS EIGHT IN ONE FAMILY

NEW LONDON, Conn., Aug. 21.—Eight persons are dead and a little girl is in a hospital here in a serious condition following the destruction of their automobile early today, when it was struck near Saybrook by a New Haven train.

HUSBAND LONG MISSING DECREE DEAD BY LAW

An order granting letters of administration to Mrs. Veronica Rabbitt in the estate of her husband Samuel Percival Rabbitt, whom the court has adjudged dead, was granted by Justice Gould in the District Supreme Court today.

WALL ST. MARKET EXCHANGE OPENS QUIET AND IRREGULAR TODAY.

Prices Record Narrow Changes From Yesterday's Close—United States Steel Up One Quarter, While Bethlehem Was Off One-Eighth.

NEW YORK, Aug. 21.—The stock market opened quiet and irregular today, prices recording narrow changes from yesterday's close. United States Steel was up 1/4 at 124 1/2, and Bethlehem B was off 1/8 at 113 1/2. Mexican Petroleum was up 1/4 at 97 1/2, and Atlantic Gulf 1/4 at 107.

Table with columns: Open, High, Low, Close. Lists various stocks like Alaska, Am. Oil, Am. Sugar, etc.

THE BOND MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Price. Lists various bonds like U.S. Gov. 4 1/2%, U.S. Gov. 5%, etc.

LOCAL BOND MARKET GOVERNMENT BONDS

Table with columns: Name, Price. Lists local government bonds like U.S. Reg. 7 1/2%, U.S. Coupon 7%, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS BONDS

Table with columns: Name, Price. Lists various miscellaneous bonds like Potomac Elec. Cons. 5%, etc.

PUBLIC UTILITY STOCKS

Table with columns: Name, Price. Lists public utility stocks like Capital Trac'n, Wash. Ry. & Elec. Pfd., etc.

TITLE INSURANCE STOCKS

Table with columns: Name, Price. Lists title insurance stocks like Col. Title Insurance, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS

Table with columns: Name, Price. Lists various miscellaneous stocks like Chapin-Sacks, D. C. Paper Mfg. Co., etc.

THE LOCAL MARKET STOCKS AND BONDS IN GOOD DEMAND.

Washington Railway and Electric Company's Preferred Issues Lead in Trading, With 78 Bid for Quotation Shares at Close.

There was marked improvement in demand for stocks at today's session of the Washington Stock Exchange, with good demand for public utility and type machine shares.

Washington Railway and Electric Company preferred stock led in point of volume of sales, a total of 135 shares selling during the regular call on a scale upward from 77 1/2 to 78 1/2.

Another Lincotype stock was strong with the sale of twenty-seven shares on a scale upward from 147 to 148 1/2. Lanston Monotype stock sold at 103 1/2.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRODUCE MARKET

The following were the prevailing prices at the Washington Produce Market today, according to the Department of Weights, Measures and Markets: Potatoes, per bushel, \$1.20 to \$1.25; Apples, per bushel, \$1.20 to \$1.25; Corn, per bushel, \$1.20 to \$1.25.

TODAY'S SALES

Washington Railway and Electric 4 1/2, \$1,000@77 1/2, \$800@78; Potomac Consolidated 5, \$1,000@95 1/2, \$1,000@96 1/2, \$1,000@97 1/2.

BALTIMORE GRAIN MARKET

BALTIMORE, Aug. 21.—Wheat—Firm—No. 2 soft red, \$2.15; nominal August No. 2 soft red, \$2.15. Receipts, 46,190 bushels; shipments, 105,557.

WILL NOT PICK NEWMAN'S SUCCESSOR THIS WEEK

President Wilson will not name this week a Commissioner for the District of Columbia to succeed Major Oliver P. Newman.

SENATE O. K.'S MURDOCK FOR TRADE COMMISSION

Victor Murdock, former member of the House, recently nominated for the Federal Trade Commission, has been confirmed by the Senate.

EQUITABLE CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING ASSOCIATION

Assets, \$3,271,892.90. Money Loaned on Real Estate First Mortgages. By our plan places the borrower in the most favorable position to clear his property of debt.

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MAN ON BATTLEFIELD COSTS \$50,000 TO KILL

Although officials at the War Department said today they had been advised that a man on the battlefield, they indicated that the estimate of \$50,000 per man was not excessive.

CALL FOR SILVER COINS BOOSTS METAL'S PRICE

With the silver worth 87 cents an ounce, the highest price since the civil war, Treasury officials were somewhat concerned over the situation. The high price is attributed, in part, to the extraordinary demand for silver coins.

194,879 MEN ENLIST IN 4 MONTHS OF WAR

Regular army recruits yesterday numbered 1,319, making the total since April 1, 1917, 194,879. Pennsylvania led with 157, and Illinois third with 122.

STAY IN POLITICAL RACE

Oliver Meiseroff's appointment to the second officers' reserve corps camp need not interfere at all with his political race for the office of Maryland State senator from Prince George's county, according to a statement issued by his supporters today.

The Safest Investments

Are those that do not fluctuate during the turbulent conditions of the money or stock market? Well secured on real estate in the District of Columbia, "Equitable Building Association" investments are the safest.

SWARTZELL, RHEEM & HENSEY CO.

15th and You Streets WASHINGTON, D. C.